

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The State Drug Administration, a section of the Ministry of Health, is the highest authority on pharmaceutical matters in Bulgaria and controls the production of drugs, the import of drugs through KHMPORT, and the distribution of drugs. The Administration is located at No. 22 George Washington Street in Sofia and has branches offices in every district.
2. There are approximately 500 pharmacies in Bulgaria. Only three of the 20 pharmacies in Plovdiv receive penicillin; each of them receives from 500 grams to one kilogram of pyrimidex per month and up to one kilogram of sulphanilamides per month.
3. The Pharmaceutical Department of the Medical Academy in Sofia is the only institution in Bulgaria which trains pharmacists. The course requires four years. There are two types of pharmacists:
 - a. Graduates of the Academy, approximately 1,000; and
 - b. Those who have two years of practical experience but no special education in the pharmacy field, 500 to 600.

Domestic Production of Drugs

4. The pharmaceutical industry in Bulgaria is almost non-existent. Sera and vaccines are produced by the Central Bacteriological Institute in Sofia. The Galenus works, located at Ilyantel near Sofia, is merely a laboratory for making imported drugs into tablets and pills for sale. (See also paragraph 10a below.)
5. The Aleksandrovska Hospital of the Medical Academy in Sofia is conducting experiments to produce penicillin locally and has succeeded in making preparations suitable for external use only. These preparations are used in very limited quantities and only by the Aleksandrovska Hospital.
6. A large pharmaceutical laboratory which belongs to the Army is located near Sofia.

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7. The central pharmaceutical stores are located near Vratsa on the Sofia-Vidin road.

Pharmaceutical Imports

8. Most drugs are imported from the USSR and the Satellite countries. Imports from Western Europe have almost ceased; in 1950, some French drugs were on the market, and at present, some Swiss drugs make sporadic appearances. The import of drugs from the Eastern Bloc is insufficient.
9. The following drugs are imported from the Soviet Union:
- a. Penicillin, the only antibiotic, obtainable in very limited quantities and sold upon presentation of a prescription signed by three physicians;
 - b. Sulphanilamides (sulphidin, red and white streptocit, sulphaguanidin, and sulphasol), imported in very limited quantities and issued only for children up to the age of three years; frequently they are not available at all;
 - c. Pyramidon, antipirin, and salipirin, obtained in limited quantities; the shortage of pyramidon is particularly felt;
 - d. Of the antimalarial drugs, quinine, atebirin, and plasmochin are available in sufficient quantities, probably because of the marked decrease in the incidence of malaria during the past few years;
 - e. PAS (Para Amino Salicylic Acid) is available in very limited quantities only and is distributed on the same basis as penicillin; and
 - f. Salicylic acid, perhydrol, rivanol, alkaloids, caffeine, theobromine, and vaseline are among the less important preparations obtained from the USSR.
10. The following drugs are imported from Poland:
- a. Alkaloids (codein), in sufficient quantities since Galenus has also started producing on a small scale following local opium production; because of the lack of expert personnel, Bulgaria so far is not in a position to process its opium completely and is extracting only morphine;
 - b. Lanolin, in insufficient quantities; and
 - c. Lignin, in insufficient quantities.
11. Czechoslovakia supplies large quantities of drugs, particularly dormobromine.
12. Hungary supplies mainly ultraseptil in limited quantities and certain other less important preparations.
13. Eastern Germany supplies aspirin, asorban, eledron, and sulphoderm in very limited quantities.
14. Digitalis preparations have to be imported because of the inferior quality of the Bulgarian product. Digitalin nativell is obtained from France and digalen from Switzerland.
15. Streptomycin of United States origin is available in very limited quantities.
16. A sufficient stock of such cardiac drugs as chimidin and cardiasol, of unknown origin, is available.

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